

For the past four years, we have worked with First Lady Jane Beshear and Kroger on a program called Shop and Share. The day before the Super Bowl when lots of people are in Kroger, we ask people to contribute goods and money. Our total this year was almost \$800,000.

The Girl Scouts actually helped us with that. The Girl Scouts are good at asking for things. It's a great program and collaboration. Our KDVA president keeps saying, 'It is to keep their girls from becoming our girls.'

We really have tried to incorporate effective prevention into our work. But there are very limited resources. All our shelters are really struggling. Coming up with money and staff to do prevention, when your goal has to be to keep women who are battered safe, is hard.

#### How are KDVA and the 15 shelters funded?

**SHARON:** All the programs that we've been able to add or develop depend on resources. So a lot of Mary Savage's time is spent trying to develop those resources.

We are mostly grant funded. As those grants dry up, it's going to be harder and harder to continue some programs.

We do get funds from general funds, and we have been blessed because we have not lost a lot of money, whereas some programs have been devastated. The problem comes with running a 24/7 facility. Some of our shelters' utility bills have gone from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per month. We do lots of transportation, so rising gas prices hurt us. It is just very expensive to run a shelter.

We get funding from the state through the CHFS and through the Department of Justice as well. We also get funds directly from the federal government. We administer \$7.6 million to our programs each year.

We have been flat funded for a long time. We lost some money, but mostly we have been flat. In this economy we are thankful, but on the other hand our shelters are really in trouble. We have programs that haven't had salary increases for five or six years. Working in a shelter is really hard work, and we have fairly high turnover because of that. They are underpaid.

We are at capacity all the time, because of increased use and then women have to stay longer. We are getting better at that, because we are trying to provide transitional housing, but there are people who take their place. Last fiscal year, we turned more than 1,000 people away from shelters. But we try to find alternative places for them.

There are various hotels around the state that will give us really good rates on rooms for two to three nights until we can get someone into a shelter. We also work with the local homeless shelters like the Salvation Army.

#### How closely does KDVA and the state's shelters work with local law enforcement on domestic violence issues?

**MARY S:** My experience has been in terms of local law enforcement agencies looking to KDVA for technical assistance or as a resource, and there is very little of that going on. I think most sheriff's offices and local city police departments are used to going to the county attorney or city attorney for advice on how to >>



▲ This wall hanging was an art project created by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association Board, which is comprised of representatives from Kentucky's 15 regional domestic violence programs/shelters. It hangs in the KDVA conference room at the organization's headquarters in Frankfort.